

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 16, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Ms. Kathleen Pritchard, Mr. John Groothuis, Mr. R. Max Peterson, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. William Wolf and Mr. Jim Hicks. Staff was represented by Jay Banks.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 19, 2001 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The hours of the Flower and Garden show were discussed. Ms. Pritchard suggested that participants arrive one hour early to set up and prepare seedlings. It was asked that old newspapers be brought to wrap the seedlings.

Mr. Banks said the name tags were ordered and they were supposed to be in on Friday (the 13th). They will be included with the packets downstairs. A discussion was held on what participants do at the stand for the Flower and Garden Show (pass out trees, answer questions, etc).

Mr. Banks said that the birch tree seedlings are in. They are in cold storage. They will be delivered Friday the 20th in the afternoon.

Ms. Pritchard commented that a lot of brochures on pruning and planting are distributed at the Flower and Garden show. It was asked that 500 copies be made of "How to Plant Seedlings."

Mr. Groothuis said he would stop by Blake's Nursery to see if they had a sample of a River Birch that could be used for the Garden Show.

For Arbor Day, Mr. Hower stated he will come by on April 27th to pick up the display and the rack of brochures. Two tables will also be needed. The tables will be returned Monday morning.

Mr. Hower said he got a notice in the mail regarding the dedication of the Ida Lee Recreation Center on April 28th at 10:00. He asked if this would have any impact on the dignitaries representing the Town of Leesburg at the Arbor Day festivities for the presentation of the Tree City plaque. Mr. Banks suggested that a possible fallback position would be for the Tree Commission to accept the plaque from the Department of Forestry on behalf of the Town of Leesburg. Mr. Banks said the dignitaries have been sent formal invitations. Mr. Hower said he would email the Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Pritchard asked Mr. Banks for a budget update. The lump sum remaining is \$11,425. However, there are outstanding balances of \$4,257 that are not reflected in the \$11,425. In addition to that, there's \$1,500 that the Tree Commission has committed to Arbor Day. This totals \$5,757 in outstanding obligations. Available funds are approximately \$5,000 dollars.

Ms. Pritchard said that several years ago, the Tree Commission talked about planting trees at Catoctin Skate Park, specifically on the west side parking lot which has gravel on it. Ms. Pritchard commented that the site and asked his opinion on the type of sizeable tree that might be appropriate for that location, or, would this be more a nuisance and not suitable for a project? Mr. Hower said the gravel area is currently being used for overflow parking. Ms. Pritchard observed that since money was available, perhaps something could be done with it there. Mr. Banks said that the Tree Commission will need to know if there is a master plan for that area before anything is planned. Since the park is so heavily used and such a money maker, it is possible it might be on top of the list for expansion. It may also be affected by the Catoctin widening. A general discussion was held on trees in that area.

Ms. Pritchard said she was just trying to find something to use the \$5,000. Mr. Hower said that some money should be reserved for fall planting at Ida Lee riparian ruffer area. Ms. Pritchard thought we should earmark the money now or lose it. If \$1,600 is reserved for Mr. Hower's idea, \$4,000 will still be available to spend.

Mr. Banks will check with Parks and Rec to see if they have any plans for the Skate Park.

At the next meeting, discussion will also be held on what to do with the money in the budget.

Mr. Banks said there are opportunities for the Commission to attend workshops. Those monies are available in the budget.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Mr. Hower met with Spence Jones the Boy Scout who wants his eagle scout project to focus on replanting the riparian buffer area as well as to set up an 18-month management plan and to integrate some light interpretive work with it. He's looking at a fall date. He recently attended an Izaak Walton Restoration Workshop. Mr. Hower suggested everyone go to the Old Izaak Walton Park here in town and look at the stream restoration effort including the first riparian buffer area that was planted along the bank.

Mr. Peterson provided an update on the federal budget.

Mr. Groothius updated the Commission on the Mayor's meeting with all the Commission Chairs. There's a possibility that the Tree Commission with the EAC, Parks and Rec and

Economic Development Commission, may be getting together later this year to look at what they can do together. Mr. Groothius brought up the entry ways and Economic development will probably go along with trying to get a study on that because they realize that the town has changed since the signs were put up on Market Street fifteen years ago.

Mr. Banks reported that a private tree fell on West Loudoun Street and came to rest on a waste management truck. No one was hurt. Damage was confined to the front yard in which the debris fell in.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned at 8:40.

Jay Banks, Town Arborist